

In the Claims

The following is a marked-up version of the claims with the language that is underlined (“___”) being added and the language that contains strikethrough (“—”) being deleted:

1. (Currently Amended) A digital set-top box for minimizing subscriber-perceived digital video channel tuning delay, comprising:
 - a first decoder;
 - a second decoder; ~~and~~
 - a look-ahead tuning logic in communication with said first decoder and said second decoder, wherein said look-ahead tuning logic instructs said second decoder to decode a television channel predicted by said look-ahead tuning ~~logic~~; logic; and
 - a prediction evaluator, wherein said prediction evaluator is configured to determine if said television channel predicted by said look-ahead tuning logic matches a subsequent subscriber requested television channel,
 - wherein the prediction evaluator is further configured to adjust said look-ahead tuning logic to effect more accurate channel predictions in the future, based on the accuracy of past channel predictions.
2. (Original) The digital set-top box of claim 1, wherein said look-ahead tuning logic comprises a channel prediction logic, wherein said channel prediction logic compiles a list of television channels, and wherein said look-ahead tuning logic selects said predicted television channel from said list of television channels.

3. (Original) The digital set-top box of claim 2, wherein said list of television channels is created based in part on a current channel decoded by said first decoder.
4. (Original) The digital set-top box of claim 2, further comprising a memory in communication with said look-ahead tuning logic, where said memory stores a historical log of channels recently decoded by said first decoder.
5. (Original) The digital set-top box of claim 4, wherein said list of television channels is created based in part upon a said historical log of channels.
6. (Original) The digital set-top box of claim 2, further comprising a weighting database, wherein said weighting database orders said television channels to generate said list of television channels.
7. (Original) The digital set-top box of claim 1, further comprising a decoder manager, wherein said decoder manager determines if said second decoder is available to decode said television channel predicted by said look-ahead tuning logic.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Original) The digital set-top box of claim 1, wherein said look-ahead tuning logic comprises a feedback loop.

10. (Currently Amended) A method executed in digital set-top box having at least two decoders, comprising:

receiving a request from a subscriber to view a first television channel;

decoding said first television channel using a first decoder;

predicting a next television channel to be requested by said subscriber; and

decoding said predicted next television channel using a second ~~decoder~~ decoder;

determining if said predicted next television channel matches a subsequent subscriber requested television channel; and

automatically adjusting future channel predictions based on the accuracy of past channel predictions.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of predicting a next television channel is based in part upon the subscriber's most frequently watched television channels.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of predicting a next television channel is based in part upon the identity of said first television channel.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of predicting a next television channel comprises compiling a list of candidate television channels, wherein said next television channel is chosen from said list of candidate television channels.

15. (Currently Amended) A method executed in digital set-top box having at least two decoders, comprising:

receiving a request from a subscriber to view a first television channel;

decoding said first television channel using a first decoder;

predicting a next television channel to be requested by said subscriber, wherein predicting a next television channel comprises compiling a list of candidate television channels, wherein said next television channel is chosen from said list of candidate television channels;

decoding said predicted next television channel using a second decoder; and

~~The method of claim 14, further comprising~~ organizing said list of candidate television channels based upon weights generated by evaluating the accuracy of past predictions of television channels to be selected by said subscriber.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 10~~, claim 15, further comprising the step of determining the determining the resources available for tuning to said predicted next television channel.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 10~~, claim 15, further comprising tracking said prediction to determine the accuracy of said prediction.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising using said accuracy of said prediction to predict subsequent television channels to be requested by said subscriber.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 10~~, claim 15, further comprising the step of storing the identity of said predicted television channel in memory.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 10~~, claim 15, further comprising the step of storing a historical log of television channels requested by said subscriber.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 10~~, claim 15, further comprising the step of instantaneously presenting said predicted next television channel for viewing by a subscriber.